

“Let the Light Shine”

Second Corinthians 4:1-6

I. Problem: our tendency to lose heart--to become discouraged

To “grow _____ in well doing” [Galatians 6:9]

“Soul-travail will bring on occasional seasons of exhaustion, when heart and flesh may fail.”

[Spurgeon]

A. A compounded problem: our tendency to handle obstacles on our own

Danger: to combat problems by _____ or adjusting the truth

B. How do we keep from losing heart?

1. We rest in God’s _____

There's a _____ in God's mercy/ Like the wideness of the sea” [Frederick Faber]

“Our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient” [II Corinthians 3:6a]

2. We consider the ministry we have been given: the _____ glory of the Gospel

II. We turn to Jesus

A. Rich Christology here

“Christ is the _____ of God” [4b]

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the _____ imprint of the divine nature.”

[Hebrews 1:3a]

B. Rich counsel here: keep turning and returning to Jesus

III. Turn others to Jesus

A. His mercy to us gives us space to be merciful to others

We are merciful to others as God has been merciful to us [Luke 6:36]

Mercy is shown only to the _____, the condemned, the hopeless.

There is a wide space for _____

“Whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.” [II Corinthians 3:16a]

B. We are not _____

Editing the Gospel is a huge and profitable _____

We must “_____ these ways--refuse to practice them”

C. We _____ on Jesus

As He did in creation, God continues to bring us out of our _____ and darkness

Our activity proceeds from our rapt passivity; our _____, like the moon, is derivative

D. We bring people to Jesus--“What we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” [5]

1. We proclaim Jesus – we point people to Him

“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!” [John 1:29, 36]

We find ways to “_____” Him

2. We _____ others for Jesus’ sake

“I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win them.” [I Corinthians 9:19]

3. We _____: we call on the one who opens blind eyes

The Lord’s Supper is where we celebrate the wideness of God’s mercy